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In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Amended) A thermoplastic composition comprising:

from about 1 % by weight to 25 % by weight block copolymer having the formula (A-B)x or A-B-A where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and x is an integer of at least one;

from 45 % by weight to 75 % by weight superabsorbent polymer particles comprising polyacrylate and having a median particle diameter of from 20  $\mu$ m to 30  $\mu$ m; and

from about 15 % by weight to about 40 % by weight plasticizing oil,  
and a viscosity of no greater than 100,000 at 300°F.

22. (Currently Amended) A thermoplastic composition comprising:

block copolymer having the formula (A-B)x or A-B-A where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and x is an integer of at least one;

spherical superabsorbent particles comprising polyacrylate and having a median particle diameter of from 20  $\mu$ m to 30  $\mu$ m; and

plasticizing oil,

said composition exhibiting water gel time of no greater than 2 minutes.

24. (Currently Amended) A thermoplastic composition comprising:

block copolymer having the formula (A-B)x or A-B-A where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and x is an integer of at least one;

spherical superabsorbent particles comprising polyacrylate and having a median particle diameter of from 20  $\mu$ m to 30  $\mu$ m; and

plasticizing oil,

said composition exhibiting a 0.9 % saline solution gel time of no greater than 1 hour.

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25. (Currently Amended) A thermoplastic composition comprising:  
block copolymer having the formula (A-B) $x$  or A-B-A where the A block  
comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and  $x$  is an integer  
of at least one;

spherical superabsorbent particles comprising polyacrylate and having a  
median particle diameter of from 20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 30  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and

plasticizing oil,

said composition exhibiting an absorbent capacity of at least 70 g water/g  
of composition.

26. (Currently Amended) A thermoplastic composition comprising:  
block copolymer having the formula (A-B) $x$  or A-B-A where the A block  
comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and  $x$  is an integer  
of at least one;

spherical superabsorbent particles comprising polyacrylate and having a  
median particle diameter of from 20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 30  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and

plasticizing oil,

said composition exhibiting an absorbent capacity of at least 25 g 0.9 %  
aqueous saline solution/g of composition.

27. (Currently Amended) A thermoplastic adhesive composition comprising:  
from about 1 % by weight to 25 % by weight block copolymer having the  
formula (A-B) $x$  or A-B-A where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B  
block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and  $x$  is an integer of at least one;

from about 45 % by weight to about 75 % by weight superabsorbent  
polymer particles comprising polyacrylate and having a median particle diameter  
of from 20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 30  $\mu\text{m}$ ;

tackifying agent; and

from about 15% by weight to about 40% by weight plasticizing oil,

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said composition having a viscosity of no greater than 100,000 centipoise at 300°F.

38. (Currently Amended) A thermoplastic composition comprising:

block copolymer having the formula (A-B)x or A-B-A where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and x is an integer of at least one;

from about 45 % by weight to about 75 % by weight superabsorbent polymer particles that include polyacrylate; and

from about 15 % by weight to about 40 % by weight plasticizing oil,  
said composition exhibiting a water gel time of no greater than 2 minutes,  
and an absorption capacity of at least 70 g water/g composition and at least 10 g 0.9% saline solution/g composition,

said composition having a viscosity of no greater than 100,000 centipoise at 300°F.

Please add the following new claim

41.(New) A thermoplastic composition comprising:

from about 1 % by weight to 25 % by weight block copolymer having the formula (A-B)x or A-B-A where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and x is an integer of at least one;

from 60 % by weight to 75 % by weight superabsorbent polymer particles comprising polyacrylate and having a median particle diameter of from 20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 30  $\mu\text{m}$ ;  
and

from about 15 % by weight to about 40 % by weight plasticizing oil.

### LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1.(Amended) A thermoplastic composition comprising:

from about 1 % by weight to 25 % by weight block copolymer having the formula (A-B)x or A-B-A where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and x is an integer of at least one;

from 45 % by weight to 75 % by weight superabsorbent polymer particles comprising polyacrylate and having a median particle diameter of from 20  $\mu$ m to 30  $\mu$ m; and

from about 15 % by weight to about 40 % by weight plasticizing oil,

and a viscosity of no greater than 100,000 at 300°F.

2.(Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, further comprising surfactant.

3. (Previously Presented) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, further comprising from about 1% by weight to about 5 % by weight surfactant.

4. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, comprising from 60 % by weight to about 75 % by weight said superabsorbent polymer.

5. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, wherein the block copolymer is selected from the group consisting of styrene-isoprene-styrene, styrene-ethylene-butylene-styrene, styrene-ethylene-propylene-styrene, styrene-butadiene-styrene and combinations thereof

6. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, wherein said composition exhibits a water gel time of no greater than 2 minutes.

7. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, wherein said composition exhibits a water gel time of no greater than 1.5 minutes.

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8. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, wherein said composition exhibits a water gel time of no greater than 1 minute.

9. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, wherein said composition exhibits a 0.9 % saline solution gel time of no greater than 4 hours.

10. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, wherein said composition exhibits a 0.9 % saline solution gel time of no greater than 1 hour.

11. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, wherein said composition exhibits a 0.9 % saline solution gel time of no greater than 25 minutes.

12. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, wherein said composition exhibits a 0.9 % saline solution gel time of no greater than 10 minutes.

13. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, wherein said composition exhibits a 0.9 % saline solution gel time of no greater than 5 minutes.

14. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, wherein said composition exhibits an absorbent capacity of at least 60 g water/g of composition.

15. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, wherein said composition exhibits an absorbent capacity of at least 70 g water/g of composition.

16. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, wherein said composition exhibits an absorbent capacity of at least 90 g water/g of composition.

17. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, wherein said composition exhibits an absorbent capacity of at least 100 g water/g of composition.

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18. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, wherein said composition exhibits an absorbent capacity of at least 110 g water/g of composition.

19. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, wherein said composition exhibits an absorbent capacity of at least 25 g 0.9 % saline solution/g of composition.

20. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, wherein said composition exhibits an absorbent capacity of at least 30 g 0.9 % saline solution/g of composition.

21. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, wherein said composition exhibits an absorbent capacity of at least 35 g 0.9 % saline solution/g of composition.

22. (Currently Amended) A thermoplastic composition comprising:  
block copolymer having the formula (A-B)<sub>x</sub> or A-B-A where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and x is an integer of at least one;  
spherical superabsorbent particles comprising polyacrylate and having a median particle diameter of from 20 μm to 30 μm; and  
plasticizing oil,  
said composition exhibiting water gel time of no greater than 2 minutes.

23. (Original) The thermoplastic composition of claim 22, wherein said block copolymer is selected from the group consisting of styrene-isoprene-styrene, styrene-ethylene-butylene-styrene, styrene-ethylene-propylene-styrene, styrene-butadiene-styrene and combinations thereof

24. (Currently Amended) A thermoplastic composition comprising:

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block copolymer having the formula (A-B) $x$  or A-B-A where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and  $x$  is an integer of at least one;

spherical superabsorbent particles comprising polyacrylate and having a median particle diameter of from 20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 30  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and

plasticizing oil,

said composition exhibiting a 0.9 % saline solution gel time of no greater than 1 hour.

25. (Currently Amended) A thermoplastic composition comprising:

block copolymer having the formula (A-B) $x$  or A-B-A where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and  $x$  is an integer of at least one;

spherical superabsorbent particles comprising polyacrylate and having a median particle diameter of from 20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 30  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and

plasticizing oil,

said composition exhibiting an absorbent capacity of at least 70 g water/g of composition.

26. (Currently Amended) A thermoplastic composition comprising:

block copolymer having the formula (A-B) $x$  or A-B-A where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and  $x$  is an integer of at least one;

spherical superabsorbent particles comprising polyacrylate and having a median particle diameter of from 20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 30  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and

plasticizing oil,

said composition exhibiting an absorbent capacity of at least 25 g 0.9 % aqueous saline solution/g of composition.

27. (Currently Amended) A thermoplastic adhesive composition comprising:

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from about 1 % by weight to 25 % by weight block copolymer having the formula (A-B) $x$  or A-B-A where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and  $x$  is an integer of at least one;

from about 45 % by weight to about 75 % by weight superabsorbent polymer particles comprising polyacrylate and having a median particle diameter of from 20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 30  $\mu\text{m}$ ;

tackifying agent; and

from about 15% by weight to about 40% by weight plasticizing oil,  
said composition having a viscosity of no greater than 100,000 centipoise at 300°F.

28. (Original) An absorbent article comprising:

an absorbent core;

the thermoplastic composition of claim 1 incorporated in said absorbent core.

29. (Original) An absorbent article comprising:

an absorbent core; and

the thermoplastic composition of claim 1 disposed on said absorbent core.

30. (Original) An absorbent article comprising:

a liquid permeable sheet;

a liquid impermeable barrier sheet;

an absorbent element disposed between the liquid permeable sheet and the barrier sheet; and

the thermoplastic composition of claim 1 disposed on at least one of said liquid permeable sheet, said barrier sheet and said absorbent element.

31. (Original) An absorbent article according to claim 32 selected from the group consisting of disposable diapers, sanitary napkins, wound care products, wipes, towels and tissues.



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32. (Original) An absorbent article comprising:

- a liquid permeable sheet;
- a liquid impermeable barrier sheet;
- an absorbent element disposed between the liquid permeable sheet and the barrier sheet; and
- the thermoplastic composition of claim 1 incorporated in said absorbent element.

33. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic composition comprising:

- block copolymer having the formula (A-B) $x$  or A-B-A where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and  $x$  is an integer of at least one;
- spherical superabsorbent particles comprising polyacrylate; and
- plasticizing oil,
- said composition exhibiting a water gel time of no greater than 2 minutes,
- a viscosity of no greater than 100,000 centipoise at 300°F and a wet tensile strength of at least 15 g/in<sup>2</sup>.

34. (Previously Presented) The thermoplastic composition of claim 33, wherein said composition exhibits a 0.9 % saline solution gel time of no greater than 1 hour.

35. (Previously Presented) The thermoplastic composition of claim 33, wherein said composition exhibits a 0.9 % saline solution gel time of no greater than 10 minutes.

36. (Previously Presented) The thermoplastic composition of claim 33, wherein said composition exhibits a water gel time of no greater than 1.5 minutes, a viscosity of no greater than 30,000 centipoise at 300°F and a wet tensile strength of at least 40 g/in<sup>2</sup>.

37. (Previously Presented) The thermoplastic composition of claim 33, wherein said composition exhibits an absorption capacity of at least 70 g water/g composition.

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38. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic composition comprising:

block copolymer having the formula (A-B) $x$  or A-B-A where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and  $x$  is an integer of at least one;

from about 45 % by weight to about 75 % by weight superabsorbent polymer particles that include polyacrylate; and

from about 15 % by weight to about 40 % by weight plasticizing oil,  
said composition exhibiting a water gel time of no greater than 2 minutes,  
and an absorption capacity of at least 70 g water/g composition and at least 10 g 0.9% saline solution/g composition.

39. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic composition comprising:

block copolymer having the formula (A-B) $x$  or A-B-A where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and  $x$  is an integer of at least one;

from about 45 % by weight to about 75 % by weight superabsorbent polymer particles comprising polyacrylate; and

from about 15 % by weight to about 40 % by weight plasticizer,  
said composition exhibiting a viscosity of no greater than about 65,000 centipoise at 300°F.

40. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic composition comprising:

thermoplastic polymer selected from the group consisting of amorphous polyolefins, crystalline polyolefins, polylactides, polyvinyl alcohols, copolyesters, polyesters, poly(ethylene oxide) polyether amides, polyester ether block copolymers, polyamides, and combinations thereof;

from about 45 % by weight to about 75 % by weight superabsorbent polymer particles comprising polyacrylate; and

from about 15 % by weight to about 40 % by weight plasticizer,

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said composition exhibiting a viscosity of no greater than about 65,000 centipoise at 300°F.

41.(New) A thermoplastic composition comprising:

from about 1 % by weight to 25 % by weight block copolymer having the formula (A-B) $x$  or A-B-A where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and  $x$  is an integer of at least one;

from 60 % by weight to 75 % by weight superabsorbent polymer particles comprising polyacrylate and having a median particle diameter of from 20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 30  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and

from about 15 % by weight to about 40 % by weight plasticizing oil.